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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Environmental Cleanup Office

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April 29, 2003

Mr. Thomas Eaton, Associate Director
Environmental Cleanup Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Eaton:

I am taking this opportunity to put in writing Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) position on the CERCLA process that EPA is involved in relating to Lake Roosevelt. This position was one that was also relayed to EPA management during the official consultation meeting in Ecology's headquarters building on February 28, 2003.

Ecology believes that the state of Washington does not have the authority to take this site on in an effective manner. Therefore, a Formal State Deferral is not a viable management option. That leaves us with primarily a federal process. I believe that most interested parties agree that more information is needed to assess human health and environmental impacts to the Lake Roosevelt system. The process to get that additional information is through the Superfund listing or a Superfund equivalent process. A Superfund process or one that is equivalent will provide the necessary framework for additional definitive studies. The choice between those two options (or others that meet Superfund equivalency) is principally reliant on discussions between EPA and Teck Cominco.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (360) 407- 7177.

Sincerely,

James J. Pendowski, Program Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program

cc: Tom Fitzsimmons, Ecology
Tom Laurie, Ecology
Flora J. Goldstein, Ecology

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